

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 10, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Reconsideration of this application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. The claims presented for examination are: claims 1-47.

In numbered paragraph 1 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003, claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10-12, 15-18, 20, 25-27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 41, 42, 44, and 46 were rejected under 35USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hughes (4,190,327). In numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003, claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 19, 21-24, 28, 29, 35, 36, 38-40, 43, 45, and 47 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Only three of the claims of the application are independent claims. They are claims 1, 25, and 41. All of the other claims depend from the three independent claims. Independent claims 1, 25, and 41 have been amended to revise them to be allowable according to the requirements of numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 4, claim 25 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 28, and claim 41 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 45.

Since the three independent claims, amended claims 1, 25, and 41 are now allowable and all of the other claims depend from amended claims 1, 25, and 41, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

The undersigned respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing amendments and the foregoing remarks, the rejections of the claims raised in the Office Action dated October 10, 2003 have been fully addressed and overcome, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, that the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed to issue. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (925) 424-6897.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie E. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: November 12, 2003